

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

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New forms may fold the speech, new lands
Arise within these ocean portals,
But music waves eternal brands—
Enchantress of the souls of mortals!

—E. C. Stedman.

LOGICAL

Gov. Frear's resignation, it has been suggested in some quarters, will be in the hands of the new president for such action as Mr. Wilson may take. If Mr. Wilson takes the action expected of a man who has declared he will not dismiss from an office in which he has made good its incumbent simply because he happens to be a Republican, the new president will reappoint Mr. Frear. There is not now a Democratic candidate for the position who has the grasp and ability of the governor together with general availability.

THE WEBB LAW, THE GRONNA BILL, AND HAWAII

How rapidly the cause of temperance and prohibition is progressing, after years of unselfish battling by noble men and women, may be measured by the fact that both the senate and lower house of congress have passed over the president's veto the Webb-Kenyon bill. This bill prohibits the shipment of liquor into "dry" territory and makes liquors so shipped subject to the laws of the state into which they go. The president vetoed the bill on technical grounds. The senate promptly passed the bill over the president's veto by a vote of 63 to 21, and the house immediately followed with similar action by a vote of 244 to 95. The Webb law vastly strengthens the chances of the Gronna bill, which prohibits selling of intoxicating beverages in the territory of Hawaii. In fact, the Webb law makes the Gronna bill possible of complete fulfillment.

The passage of the Webb bill over Taft's veto was the triumph of a moral issue over a technical objection. The changed attitude of senate and house typify the changing attitude of millions of thinking men and women the world over. They are coming to see the crime, ruin and degradation that follow inexorably in the path of whiskey, and to know that prohibition is as fundamentally sound a principle as the legal prevention of unbridled lust and passion.

GRAND OPERA ON TRIAL

The arrival of seventy operatic artists today for an engagement of several weeks' duration means considerably more to this city than that the Lambardi company has reached Honolulu—it means that grand opera has reached Honolulu.

Operatic stars, singly touring the world or on their way to the colonies or the Orient, are no novelties here. Calve was greeted by a very large audience, and an audience that knew its "Carmen" and appreciated the greatest of Carmens. The novelty in this case is that there is to be a grand opera season by a company which has played the big cities of the Coast and the West, with a success which has continued year after year. Grand opera is here not for an episodic appearance, but for a long engagement. Honolulu is on the opera map, and will stay on if Honolulu rises to the occasion.

The Lambardi company is a worthy company. It has made and kept a secure place in the hearts of cultured men and women of San Francisco, Portland, Los Angeles, Seattle, St. Louis and other big cities of the mainland—cities that have heard the greatest operatic stars now singing in America. The Lambardi company has been able to come back year after year to these cities because it is a high-class company, producing operas intelligently, faithfully and effectively. As to its individual stars, Honolulu will know more after the first two or three performances. Some criticism has been made of the prices, but that criticism is not by people who know. The truth is that higher prices have been charged for seats in the coast cities than are being asked for the opera house here.

A grand opera season is a musical and dramatic stimulus to any city. Outside the benefits of pleasure and culture to be derived by the people of the city Honolulu will receive a very direct piece of advertising immensely valuable

from the standpoint of tourist traffic. The reports of the success or failure of grand opera here will go all over the world. If it is a success, tourists who enjoy good music, good singing, will know that Honolulu is the kind of city where they can find this enjoyment.

A word to opera-goers here: In many of the great operas to be produced during the next two weeks, the orchestral preludes and overtures are extremely beautiful and intrinsically a part of the opera itself. The performances begin at 8:15 o'clock, and the management is asking the merest courtesy in requesting patrons to be in their seats before this time. A few late-comers may ruin the pleasure of many who are on time.

Senator Baker's bill to place faithful territorial employees on a retired list as old age comes upon them, with a pension sufficient to keep them from want, is based upon charitable and kindly motives, but it is hardly practicable for the territory to undertake such an ambitious scheme. The danger would be that of saddling Hawaii with a huge financial obligation that would grow each year. A pension roll would immediately open the way to "pension politics" such as has been the scandal of Congress for years, and to the most insidious forms of graft. Undoubtedly there are occasional cases where faithful public servants should be rewarded, but a wholesale pension bill is mistaken charity.

Kaiulani Park by all means should be accepted by the territory in the splendid spirit in which it was given by the late Gov. A. S. Cleghorn. When the Star-Bulletin called attention some months ago to the fact that the present legislature would be asked to pass a bill accepting the gift, it was generally felt that the legislature of 1911 should have taken favorable action instead of passing by an unequal opportunity. That feeling has steadily grown. It should not be again disregarded.

One of the prominent local Democrats, discussing commission government for Honolulu, declares: "It's a grand thing and we ought to have it—but it will take years before we can get it." Which means, in this case, that the Democrats have no intention of relinquishing soon their hold on municipal affairs gained under the present form of government.

Nevada has started to abolish the notorious divorce colony at Reno. The state legislature has passed a law making the requisite period of residence before applying for divorce one year instead of six months. With New Jersey busting trusts and Nevada turning back the would-be divorcees from her borders, hard times are in store for several privileged people.

The board of fire underwriters has come to the point of considering a reduction in rates here. Likewise, the last Mahuka site case has been finished. Courage, brothers, the world does move!

Possibly some of the enthusiasm of the inaugural will die away when the paraders learn that the new president doesn't intend to signify his gratitude by distributing jobs.

Tumulty is the name of Wilson's private secretary. It is understood, however, that the young man's name has no particular administrative significance.

One of the last lingering echoes of Taftism is his reference to the "little brown brother." Yet somehow the Philippines seem to be welcoming his successor.

Hawaii ought to get in line with progress by the passage of a workmen's compensation act at this session of the legislature.

Some of the self-appointed cabinet-makers suspect by this time that President-elect Wilson knows what he wants and will get it.

"Gen." Rosalie Jones rather outshines the well-remembered Mr. Coxey.

Suffrage will not down, even though the house members wish it.

Turkey will soon be just plain hash.

LETTERS ON TIMELY TOPICS

[The Star-Bulletin invites free and frank discussion in this column on all legitimate subjects of current interest. Communications are constantly received to which no signature is attached. This paper will treat as confidential signatures to letters if the writers so desire, but cannot give space to anonymous communications.]

NEW PLAN FOR DRYDOCK PROPOSED

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin,
Sir:—As the construction of the dry dock at Pearl Harbor as well as the theory of the construction are failures, as has been clearly demonstrated by the recent crash, and as the theory that has been advanced for the rebuilding of the dock is also in the class of guesswork, and it may be added that the writer is of the opinion that the power that lifted five feet of solid concrete will also lift twenty-five feet of the same material, I should like to advance a theory on dry dock construction applicable to the conditions that obtain at Pearl Harbor. Here it is:

Why not construct the dry dock inland, say 100 feet from the water's edge, using the same dimensions as intended for the present dock, excavating out of the solid earth? In such instance there is a pressure but from one way, from the inside out, and as the walls of the dock would have all of creation for a foundation and sides, it is certain that it would not give an inch from the pressure of the water when filled, and when emptied there would be no pressure from the bottom or outside.

The dry dock could be completed to the least detail and when all was done, even to the hanging of the gates, the canal leading to the sea could be dug and the water let in. This would not cost one-half of what has been wasted there now, not taking into account the amount that is liable to be sent after it.

M. C. F.

INCONSISTENCY

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin,
Sir:—I am a resident of these islands, have been for a number of years and expect to be for a number of years to come, and like a good many others, especially in this city, always have a kick coming over the inconsistency of

things connected with the municipality.

I notice that it is reported that a Japanese was arrested yesterday for carrying a package weighing more than five pounds on his bicycle. There's where the inconsistency comes in. Why this isolated case of arrest? There is hardly a minute of the day but what one could step to the door and see a Japanese going by with a load on a bicycle that would fill a small dray. Why are they not all arrested? Why a case here and there? It must be a fact that the police officers of the city know that there is a law against carrying packages weighing over five pounds on a bicycle, still one will see officers step out of the way to let a Japanese pass, riding a bicycle with a bundle of clothing on the handlebars of his vehicle so high that he can hardly see over it. WHY? B. O. M.

A TIP FOR THE SHERIFF

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin,
Sir:—Are the people of this city subject to abuse, physical and otherwise, from the police officers who have the keeping of the peace of the city in their hands? It would seem so from what I witnessed Friday afternoon at the corner of Hotel and Nuanu streets when the policeman that was holding down that beat at 4 o'clock lost his temper at a few questions a slightly tipsy, small-sized soldier was asking him, and after a few commands to the soldier to move on, he drew his club, and after poking the man severely in the stomach, which was in itself a dangerous thing to do, he turned the man about face and gave him a vicious kick on the end of the backbone, an assault that could easily injure one for life. But such a condition of affairs is way beyond the dimutive comprehension of that officer; one could tell that by looking at him.

It is just possible that he may kick the wrong man some day and he will get what is coming to him.

There was no occasion for the treatment that he gave the soldier, whatever. A few words kindly spoken would have been right in line with what one would expect from an officer of the law, and it is a shame that we have such bunches of ignorance on the "force". Such work is not allowed in a city of the mainland.

RAD.

goes for a much needed rest, as his duties in connection with the affairs of the big firm have been very arduous of late on account of the vast amount of building work which he has given particular attention to. Mr. Chambers who is a brother of Mrs. J. B. DeGoyer of this city, has many friends here who will hope that the ideal climate at this season of the year on the "Island Beautiful" of the Pacific, and the vacationary pleasures incident thereto, may be fully up to his most sanguine expectations. In order to be fully equipped for a spin over the Island Mr. Chambers took his auto with him.—Lincoln, Cal., News-Messenger.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

JAMES B. CASTLE—I consider it a mean piece of business for one house to pass bills with the understanding that they are to be killed in the other house. While I believe that the stamp act is utterly wrong as it stands, I am not in favor of its absolute repeal. I do not think that the deed and mortgage interests ought to be made to pay special taxes into the general revenue, but neither do I believe that the taxpayers at large should pay the expenses of registration of conveyances for the limited number of people benefitting thereby. The proper thing to do would be to limit the stamp duties to rates that would pay the expense of registration, with a margin over to cover the additions and improvements to the system necessary from time to time.

The bureau of navigation is making arrangements for the examination preliminary to promotion to the grade of lieutenant (junior grade) of all ensigns of the class of 1908. Heretofore these examinations have taken place in July, but in order that the officers due for promotion may be commissioned as early a date as practicable after July 1, the examination will be held in April or May. The ensigns on duty in the Asiatic station will be examined about April 1, and those in the Pacific and Atlantic fleets in the early part of May.

Arrangements are under way for the selection of about eight officers of lieutenant commander or lieutenant grade, and about twenty officers of junior lieutenant and ensign grade, for duty on the Asiatic station to relieve those officers whose cruises on that station expire during the year 1913. The officers selected will be sent out in the months of May, June and July.

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